THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 8. SATURDAY, MAY 8TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays and Mondays 7 to 10. p.m.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, May 8th, 3.30 p.m.—Poster parade, starting from International Suffrage Shop, 5 Duke Street, W.C.
Sunday, May 9th, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Somers.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Miss Mary Richardson, Mr. Peter Petroff, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
Monday, May 10th, 3 p.m.—10 p.m.—Caxton Hall Exhibition.
Tuesday, May 11th, 2.30 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane, N.E.-Miss P. Lynch.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Walker.
3 p.m.—10 p.m.—Caxton Hall Exhibition.
Wednesday, May 12th, 3 p.m.—10 p.m.—Caxton Hall Exhibition.
Thursday, May 13th, 8 p.m.—Bromley, 53 St. Leonard Street—Miss S. Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Miss Coombs. Chair: Miss Manicom.
Friday, May 14th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Davies
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott Street—Miss P. Lynch.
8 p.m.—Beckton Rd.—Mr. Mackinlay.
Sunday, May 16th at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Frazer Smith. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Walker, Mr. R. W. Sorensen.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, 20 Railway St.—Miss Mary Richardson, Mr. Peter Petroff.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor's attendances and baby weighing 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 55 Fife Rd., Canning Town,

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)
Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

The Society of friends are holding a series of meetings on "Constructive Peace" at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate.

AN AMERICAN VIEW OF THE WAR. [From "Puck."

If you want to see

THE SOLDIERS' CLOTHES MADE

And the MAKING of BRITISH TOYS

COME TO THE

Women's Exhibition

IN THE

CAXTON HALL

Monday, May 10, Tuesday, May 11, Wednesday, May 12,

3 TO 10 P.M.

Music. Entertainments.

SPEAKERS FROM all the SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

TICKETS:

1s.—day and evening. 6d.—after 7 p.m.

Season Tickets 2s. 6d.

Sunday, May 9th, at 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S HALL,

400 OLD FORD ROAD.

Mr. PETER PETROFF

ON

Progress of Freedom in Russia.

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST
Miss MARY RICHARDSON

League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

CONCERT

Essex Hall, Wakefield St., East Ham,

Saturday, May 8th, at 8 p.m.

Admission 2d.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT.

By ROSIKA SCHWIMMER (Buda-Pesth).
Late Secretary International Suffrage Bureau in London.

From the New York Masses.

People begin to yawn over their daily papers, the war game grows too monotonous. The reports of this gigantic new sport tell you to day that the Allies gained five yards of ground that yesterday had been conquered by the Germans. It gets pretty tiresome to watch, for months, twenty-five millions of able-bodied men move five yards this way and five yards that.

They give you careful information about the number of men and guns captured back and forth. Figures, neat and business-like as in the ledger of a respectable merchant's office. Then, as a pleasant break in the tiresome statistics, comes some interesting information about Victoria and Iron Crosses bestowed upon heroes. Regularly five or six ships, dreadnoughts, submarines, go to the bottom of the sea, ornamenting the military reports like the brass buttons on the coats of the generals.

This is how the game is reflected in the mirror of the press. The dry military reports stand between you and the real happenings like a screen. It is only in letters from the front that we can see what war is. I have one in my hand:

"I shall never forgive myself not to have shot the man who, lying on his stomach, tried to raise his head, and in a voice which I shall never forget, screamed out to me to have mercy. 'Kill me, don't let me suffer as I do.' I see the glazed eyes, the mortified green face, I see the wild, agonized look in the eyes—I see the upper part of a body rising—I see an open abdomen out of which the entrails flow like the train of a woman's dress. Oh, the horror of it! And the horror of my cowardice, that I didn't shoot the man." He keeps torturing himself with this accusation.

"I have been sent home for three days, and I wonder how I will be able to stand again what haunts me day and night," writes another friend of mine who had the privilege to serve as war correspondent instead of fighting. "I cannot forget the picture of a woman on the Southern battlefield, the corpse of a young woman, her skull broken open, the brains flowing out and a pig eating on that brain."

"I saw the inhabitants of a destroyed city fleeing in masses," I heard an American war correspondent telling, "and I saw, myself, women overcome with pains giving birth to children on the road, taking the new-born babes in handkerchiefs and running on as if they had stopped for nothing more important than to

(Continued on page 243, col. 1).

THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF

Public Meetings on Peace

(Convened by the SOCIETY OF FRIENDS).

ON

Friday, May 14th, 1915,

E. D. MOREL

(Author of "Ten Years of Secret Diplomacy")

WILL SPEAK ON

DEMOCRACY and SECRET TREATIES

—AT—

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, 136 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.
(Opposite Liverpool Street Station).

Chair to be taken at 6.30 p.m by
MRS. FORD SMITH.

AN HOUR FOR QUESTIONS.

OPEN TO ALL. NO TICKETS.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

Woman of 49 wants work to keep home going. Husband unable to work.—Mrs. Lewry, 12 Oxford Street, Barking, Essex.

Norwegian Lady, who has managed a Boarding House in Christiana, desires a situation in London.—Apply "Box 10."

WANTED. Housekeeper's place. Stillroom trained. Good needlewoman.—A. Frisby, 11 Priory Park Road, Kilburn, N.W.

Young Woman wants employment. Any kind of work. Cleaning, charring, etc. Used to be a refreshment room bar hand. Can only do daily work as she has a child to look after. Free from about 8.30 a.m. till about 6.30 p.m. Can do needlework but not machining.

WANTED.—Upholsteress to go out to work by the day.—Apply "Box 20."

The
Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.
Telephone EAST 1787.

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as be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

Vol. II. No. 8.—Sat. May 8th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

DRINK AND THE COST OF WAR.

Drunkenness is at all times an ugly thing. It brutalizes men and women, undermining and destroying their higher qualities, and predisposing them to crime. We wish that it might for ever be banished from our midst.

But we believe that the accusations made against the munition makers at the present time are gross exaggerations, and that the White Paper, from which Mr. Lloyd George quoted so largely in outlining his liquor tax proposals, is biassed and unfair. We would call the attention of our readers to the reply of Mr. O'Grady, a Member of the Labour Party, with expert practical experience as Chairman of an approved organisation under the National Insurance Act, who said: "Our books are flooded at the present moment with men, not because they drink too much, but because they are sick through physical exhaustion. An hon. friend of mine has, for his two branch secretaries, two life-long teetotalers working in an armament firm at Sheffield, who are now on the sick-list for the first time in ten years."

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, in the House of Commons debate on May 4th, said that Mr. Lloyd George had thought too much of the factor of drunkenness and too little of overwork, and declared his belief that it is "a mistake to ask men to work continuously for seven days a week," and that if the Government had stopped all Sunday labour in the munition factories the problem would have been less difficult.

This is an important admission. We trust that the Government will at once put the suggestion into practice, and will curtail the present terribly excessive daily hours of work. We must remind them of the shocking case reported last week, in which an accident occurred to a girl at Batley and Greenwood's munition factory after she had been working 25 hours. Other women and girls worked on for 30 hours.

We do not believe that Mr. Lloyd George's proposals for higher taxation of beer, wine and spirits will have any immediate effect in making drunkards sober, for, so long as he can obtain drink at any price, the confirmed dypsomaniac will get it, although he may have to sacrifice the needs of his children. Even the plan of diluting his drink, we imagine, will merely result in his drinking more.

We view with suspicion Mr. Lloyd George's suggeston for wholesale dilution (although to advocate strong drinks is the very last thing we desire), because we think that already far too much adulteration is allowed.

Mr. Lloyd George says that the extension of the limit of dilution is "in itself a good thing from the point of view of selling less whisky; but in addition to that, *it is a method which enables the publican to recoup himself whilst charging the same price to his customer.*"

That is just the sort of thing we do not like. We feel very strongly that it opens the door to the sort of cheating and jobbery which is one of the great evils of our present commercial system. It is common knowledge that adulteration of drink is largely practiced in order to create an insatiable thirst, which, whilst profitable to the liquor traders, is one of the surest ways of making drunkards.

Whilst we do not believe that the high taxation of drink at the present juncture will have much effect on the manufacture of our armaments, we yet realize that when the country is plunged into an enormously costly war, the money has to be raised from somewhere, and it seems better that it should be obtained by taxing wines and spirits and even from beer (though we must remember that it is the drink of the poorer people) than by taxing the people's food.

The cost of the War as estimated by Mr. Lloyd George, and there is no reason to suppose he overrates it, is counted in sums almost too vast for us to understand. We are told that if the War lasts six months, it will cost us £790,458,000, and that towards this, on our existing basis of taxation, we are able to raise £267,232,000, leaving a deficit of £523,226,000 to be collected from somewhere or other. If the War should last a year the cost will be £1,136,434,000 and a deficit of £862,322,000. Where is it to be found?

Mr. Lloyd George does not tell us. At the present time we are merely adding to the National Debt. Since the War started we have added £458,000,000 to the Debt, and it has swollen to £1,165,800,000. This sort of borrowing, as Mr. Lloyd George admits, cannot go on indefinitely, and in the meantime we are paying interest on every pound of that vast sum!

The proposed increased taxation of alcoholic drink would be but a drop in the gigantic bucket of our expenditure, but, probably, even of that drop the revenue will be deprived. For the liquor trade is crying out against the burden, and as this trade is perhaps the most powerfully organised political force in the whole country, Mr. Lloyd George has virtually promised to give way.

We have said that it is better to tax alcoholic drink, or anything and everything that is taxable, than to place a tax on the people's food, for this would reduce the very life-blood of our population. Yet, without even the excuse of its being done to meet the nation's liabilities, the people's food is being taxed very heavily at the present time by the exploitation of private traders.

The Government does nothing to protect the people. It presents no scheme for preventing the making of extra war profits out of the national crisis, nor does it even promise to put a super tax on those unjustifiable extra profits, which, in order to go to the root of things, should altogether be disallowed.

The Budget which Mr. Lloyd George has so far presented is no budget. It puts forward no means of raising the money we are spending. We await a genuine Budget, which must follow, with urgent expectation and we demand that it shall so adjust matters that the burden of this costly warfare shall be equally borne.

On April 28th the Civil Service Estimates were presented, and the Post Master General proudly recounted both the useful work done for the nation by his department and the great profit of £30,400.00 made by it for the State. Mr. Lloyd George's financial statement reveals the Post Office as the only large source of non-tax revenue that the nation has. If the Post Office were in private hands the Government would always have to pay heavily for all the Government letters, telegrams, telephone messages and parcels that are now freely carried—it would be paying now enormously for special war service in this, as it is in every other department, and in addition, that profit of £30,400,000, would pass away into the pockets of private speculators.

Consideration of the Post Office and its useful, revenue-producing work, should show the Government and the people of this country the direction in which it is now wisest to proceed, in so adjusting our national resources as to meet the overwhelming expenses of the war.

"Vested Interests" we shall be told, must be considered, and unfortunately it is true that "Vested Interests," to the prejudice of the entire nation, will strive to block the way. But the interests of the nation's many homes must be remembered and working women who keep those homes and bear the heaviest brunt of all taxation, must make their voices heard.

If they had the vote and would but band themselves together to use it wisely, they could speak even more powerfully than the brewers and the publicans. We are anxious to know what Mr. Lloyd George means when he says: "in a great war like this the nation must primarily depend on the savings of the community." What is it that the Government means to do?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

CHILD BARBER.

In the House of Commons, on April 29th, Mr. King said that a little girl, Dolly Hammett, aged nine years, has been taken away from school, and employed at shaving the soldiers at Budbroke Barracks, Warwickshire.

At a meeting of the Heywood Education Authority it was reported that the number of children of school age who are at work in the district as "half timers" is increasing, and that they number 66'6 of the children in the schools between 12 and 14 years of age. It was also stated that at least half the children leave before reaching Standard VI., and that only 1'5 per cent. remain at school after they are thirteen.

15,768 Manchester children are having only half-time schooling because the military authorities have taken seven schools. Manchester might follow the example of little Saffron Walden, and commandeer the churches.

A circular from the Board of Education to local education authorities urges that the policy of restricting borrowings and economising labour shall be "as loyally carried out in education as in other departments of local administration. In view of the present circumstances," it is added, "it may prove necessary for the Board in certain cases to acquiesce, for a time, in the continuance of unsatisfactory conditions which in normal times would call for speedy removal."

As a poor child's school life is so very short, and a poor child's education is its only little capital, we should insist that Education shall be the last thing on which economies are practiced.

NEXT WEEK at CAXTON HALL.

One of the chief features of the Women's Exhibition in the Caxton Hall will be the Sweated Industries exhibit, in which women will be seen making soldiers' garments, brushes, bandoliers, and so on. Interesting statistical charts have been prepared which show the prices paid to the contractor, the cost of material, and the prices paid to the various workers. The educational value of this exhibit is tremendous, and everyone should make a point of seeing it.

Another interesting exhibit is that of the East London Federation Toy Factory, in which the workers may be seen executing the various processes. A large variety of finished toys will also be shown.

At the recent Toy Fair at the Agricultural Hall, which was not open to the public, but only to trade buyers, it was generally admitted that the East London Federation's newest wax-headed dolls are not only better than any others produced in this country, but much prettier than any of the foreign dolls to which we have long been accustomed. The Federation's British Baby, Jap Baby and Brown Baby dolls were agreed to be the best rag dolls yet made, and the monkeys, lambs and other soft toys are also particularly good. The flat wooden toys are much admired.

The Food Prices exhibit arranged by the Joint Food Supply Committee of Associated Societies is specially interesting at the present time, and each of the other stalls and exhibits has an attraction of its own.

All visitors to the Exhibition will be invited to enter the ballot box and vote for or against various questions of the day, including Votes for Women and the terms on which they consider it should be granted, Government Control of the Food Supply, Naval and Military Pensions and Separation Allowances to Soldiers' Dependents, State Care of War Babies, a Legal Minimum Wage for Women, and so on.

FOOD PRICES.

In the House of Commons, on April 29th, Mr. McKenna was asked whether the Government was still buying sugar. He refused to say. He was asked when sugar would be made cheaper. He said: "The price of sugar in this country is no greater than in any other country in the world, but I should have been extremely glad if the general prices of sugar dropped."

Mr. Houston asked whether the individuals or firms that for a time bought wheat for the Government were at the same time buying and selling wheat on their own private account, and what commission they were paid for buying for the Government.

Sir Harry Verney, on behalf of the Board of Agriculture, refused to answer.

Many other questions were asked, but Mr. Robertson was then put up to evade them. When the question of Messrs. Spillers and Bakers war profit of £367,865, as compared with £89,352 last year, was raised, he said: "I do not think the high price of flour is really attributable to extravagant profits made by the firm in question."

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald asserted that wholesale milk dealers in London were bringing pressure to bear on retailers to compel them to charge 4½d. a quart instead of 4d. Mr. Tim Healey said: "How long is this gang to be allowed to sweat the faces of the poor while the common people are giving their blood for the country? Why is the Government not taking any action in the matter?"

Mr. Will Crooks said: "When are the Government departments going to cease apologising for such robbery?"

Lord Robert Cecil asked whether proceedings would be taken under the Defence of the Realm Act, or under old Statutes, to prevent the making of exorbitant profits out of the people's food.

No satisfactory answer was given.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

(Continued from front page.)

blow their noses." The paper of this same war correspondent is registering every cannon and every inch of soil conquered and reconquered by the opposing forces, giving an accurate account in every edition of the military side of the war, but I don't find a single word about this human, or, shall I say, inhuman side of the war.

A Hungarian girl, who went to care for the Galician refugees, tells me in a recent letter the story of a poor Polish woman who said: "I wanted to protect my children, and when the Russians came I ran with the other inhabitants of the village and I took my baby in a shawl on my back, the two others hung on to my skirts. I ran fast, as fast as I could, and when I arrived at the station, I had the two children hanging on my skirts, I had the shawl on my back, but I had no baby and I don't know where I dropped it."

No, they don't want us to find out that there is no honor, no glory, no heroism, no patriotism, no love for anything noble, nothing but butchery and slaughter and rape. War means that. You know the story of the War-brides. You know how God's agents in charge of the different churches compete with the military rulers in glorifying this kind of prostitution. But do you know of the *concentration camps with compulsory service of women?* You may have seen, in the March issue of the New York *Times'* Current History of the War, the full reports of the atrocities committed on Belgian women. But you didn't get the other reports about the same kind of atrocities committed by *all* armies on female human beings between the ages of five and eighty-nine in all the countries where the game of war is being played.

"I was sent here after I had been so severely wounded that they had little hope of early sending me back to the front," a Hungarian writes in a letter that I have seen. "I found my village invaded by the Russians, and I found my wife, my own daughter of fifteen and my niece of fourteen living in my house, pregnant by Russians. Down to children of twelve, the other women of the village share their fate."

Of course, there are people who strongly doubt whether they should call an outrage on a woman an atrocity. A Russian general, of whom a letter that I recently received tells, certainly does not consider it from any such "sentimental" standpoint. "You know he was a remarkable man," my friend writes. "He had quite an unusual sense of the sacredness of private property. Being put in charge of the city ——, conquered by the Russians, he proclaimed that he would punish any of his soldiers who took advantage of the situation and did anything illegal, and he kept his word by punishing every soldier who was accused of having stolen something. The complainants often pleaded for the offenders, when they saw how cruelly these men were beaten for a stolen ring, or something like that. But the first man whose complaint was refused and who was rudely insulted for his complaint, was a man who came to accuse 15 soldiers who violated his wife. 'Serves you right!' shouted the general who had such an unusual sense of the sacredness of private property, 'Serves you right, why did the women of this place flee when we settled? Why didn't you leave women enough for my soldiers?'"

"I am in charge of 18 French women pregnant by German, Turko-Hindoo and other exotic soldiers," I saw in a letter of an American woman. In place of the intellectual and industrial Internationalism which the militarists so successfully smashed down, they encourage a new "internationalism." Their only complaint is that women are not clever enough to manage that all these international little lives which tortured women are bearing shall be *males*. Certainly another proof of the inferiority of the breeding machines.

Yes, the military authorities keep the world in ignorance of the human side of their massacre, because they know if people really knew what war means, no decent men and women could stand by and allow the diplomats to wipe out Europe. If people really knew, they would say, as those who know *do* say: "Diplomats and Governments made war, dragged the people to the slaughterhouse. *People* are going to make peace, demanding that Europe shall be saved from suicide by immediate cessation of hostilities."

TO A "WAR FATHER."

"I met her in the latter end of January, and kept company with her for about six weeks. . . . She admitted she already had a child. . . . She is not the class of girl for me. . . . I am shortly leaving for the front and I am leaving this affair in my mother's hands. She is in possession of all the dates and should they tally with the birth of the child, I have instructed her to make a small allowance for the maintenance of the child."—Extract from a soldier's letter.

Do you realise that if, as you say, "the dates" should "tally with the birth of the child," the child will be yours with a moral right to protection and maintenance from you?

You say: "she is not the class of girl" for you. You should have considered what sort of girl she is before you entered into intimate relations with her, and made her the mother of your child. But in what are you better than she? She has entered into the sexual relationship out of wedlock: so have you. In *that*, you are both equal. You best know whether this child that she is about to bring into the world is the only child of which you are, or might have been, the father. You best know whether you would have married her if she had not had that other child.

But let us consider the excuse that you put forward.

Because another man, who promised to love and marry her, broke his word, after she had given him what he wanted from her, you say that you also are justified in breaking your word. She was foolish to trust to your pledges of affection when already another man had taught her how easily men's pledges are cast aside. But remember that *if, because she has had the other child, she is unworthy to marry a decent man, you, also, because of your relationship with her, are unworth to marry a decent woman.* Had you refrained from entering into sexual intercourse before marriage, you might have had the right to say to her: "You have been unchaste, therefore I cannot marry you." But, as it is, you have no right to condemn her thus, because you are, yourself, unchaste. If she did wrongly when she consented to that other man, you did even more wrongly when you, in your turn, made the self same proposal to her.

She has been foolish, blameworthy if you will, in anticipating the marriage ceremony; but she has maintained the child that she conceived out of wedlock. She has nursed it and cared for it, and has worked to maintain it. She has not run away and abandoned it, and thrust off her responsibilities, by the making of "a small allowance," as you propose to do.

You will say, perhaps, that nature and the law have forced her to accept a greater responsibility than that which you will take.

Yes, it is true, nature has placed the heavier share of the burden on the woman, whether the child be born according to our little lawyer's rules or not.

Man-made society has added to the burden. But women are coming slowly into their own. Slowly the rights of the child begin to be understood. In Norway, it has just been made the law that a man must maintain equally, according to his status, all his children, whether they are born in or out of wedlock, and all his children may claim the right to use his name, and to inherit from him on equal terms.

Some day the children of our country too will have such protection and an equal moral standard will be established for men and women.

But will you wait for the compulsion of the law to force you to deal justly by the woman you made love to and your own child—flesh of your flesh?

A MOTHER AT 14!

We reprint from the *Sunday Chronicle* the following pathetic letter. In this case steps are being taken to find a home for the girl, but what is happening to the hundreds of others in like case?

"Dear Sir,—May I be permitted through your columns to bring before the notice of your readers who have written sympathetically about War Babies, a case which is of great anxiety to me, namely, my sister. My little sister Kitty, who is not quite 15, having been got into trouble by a soldier who was billeted at her mistress's house at Saint Albans, has been turned out of her place.

"She went home to father and stepmother, hoping they would help her in her trouble, but they was so mad at the disgrace they would not let her inside the door. So she came tramping here (Woolwich) to find me, where I was in service, and the result was that my mistress told us we could both go, though I had always had a good character. I soon found work for myself in a factory and a room to sleep in, but the landlady will not have Kitty in the house, as she does not want no babies born there.

"So I have had to take the poor little soul to a women's lodging house at 6d. a night. And she has got to wander about all day or sit down to rest on the common, where men will not leave her alone, as they cannot stop there in the daytime. I don't want her to have to go to the workhouse, as we was both brought up decent when mother was alive. If only I could get her into the Mission of Hope, but I have not the money, as I am a new hand I don't get much. It is as much as I can do to get along and pay for her lodging money. If any of your readers could have seen her as I last saw her at home, a pretty little laughing girl with short frocks and curls hanging down her back, and to see her as she is now, ill and wretched and all the laugh gone out of her, eight months gone with the child, and dragging round in a old long skirt of mine to hide her shame the best we can, I am sure they would pity her."

Mr. J. Dundas White is bringing forward a resolution in the House of Commons to prepare the way for the repeal of the law which prevents illegitimate children from being made legitimate by the subsequent marriage of their parents. Mr. White stigmatises the present state of the law as "cruel, futile, and mischievous," and points out that to alter it will bring England into line with "Scotland and many other countries, including a number of the States of the American Union." We trust that Mr. White's resolution will be carried, and the law in this respect promptly amended.

"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN."

By Dr. BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY.

The Report for 1913 of the Registrar General, issued on April 29th, calls for serious consideration.

"Again the birth rate has gone "down, and a further fall is in-"dicated by the provisional returns "for 1914.

"The total death rate in the "general population is lower, but "not sufficiently low to compensate "for the fall in the birth rate.

"The mortality of illegitimate "infants was about twice as great "as that of the legitimate, the "births being respectively 37,902 "and 843,980."

Much controversy and public interest have centred lately round the "War Baby." Sir Thomas Barlow counsels a cessation of discussion until trustworthy information is available, and he adds: "There need be no fear that the practical problem will be shirked."

Is it not time to take a wider outlook and to remember the source of our anxiety for the "War Babies"—*i.e.* the need to save every savable baby in view of the fact that we are losing heavily, not only on the actual battlefield, but that here in our midst, some 100,000 babies die in their first year out of over 800,000 born, and 200,000 before they reach their 15th birthday, to say nothing of 120,000 dying in the antenatal period. Would the fall in birth rate be so serious (we must face the fact that it is bound to fall more this year), if we could save even half of our doomed babies? Let us remember that more than ⅛ of them die in the first week of life, and more than ¼ of them die in their first month, and that according to Dr. Newsholme, most of these deaths are due to preventable causes in the prenatal and natal periods. Clearly the only way to save the baby is to help the mother in these periods—to see that she has Sir George Newman's minimum requirements for healthy motherhood:—

1. Cessation of hard work before and after child birth.
2. Adequate feeding.
3. Intelligent management of Infancy.

In most towns *something* is being done for Infant and Child welfare, and all that is needed is considerable and immediate extension of this activity—how many babies are saved will depend largely on what support is given in this urgent Baby-saving Crusade, by the State, local authorities and voluntary workers.

The whole antenatal, natal and postnatal periods up to five years of age are covered by the admirable circular and memorandum of the Local Government Board on Maternity and Child Welfare, and the Board is prepared to give grants to private enterprise or to local authorities up to 50 per cent. of total expenditure in establishing and maintaining Maternity Centres, which may comprise:—

1. ANTENATAL.

(1) Antenatal Clinic for expectant mothers.

(2) Home visiting of expectant mothers.

(3) Maternity Hospitals or beds at a Hospital for complicated cases.

2. NATAL.

Skilled assistance at home or if necessary at Hospital.

3. POSTNATAL.

(1) Treatment (Mothers and Infants) at Hospital if necessary.

(2) Advice and treatment of Infants at Baby Clinic.

(3) Continuation of treatment up to school age.

(4) Systematic home visitation up to school age.

All interested in the matter should write to Whitehall for these documents and *act* upon them. With such magnificent scope, can we not see to it that not a single expectant mother or babe in need of help suffers for want of it?

Alderman Broadbent of Huddersfield saved babies by offering a prize of £1 for every healthy baby reaching its first birthday and saved many from death and worse. Will not every Mayoress throughout the land, or other 'City Mother' see to it that the Local Public Health Department becomes the Mecca for all mothers expecting babies and needing help? Cannot a placard be extensively exhibited in prominent places, and (by leaflet) to all midwives, health visitors, social workers:—"England has need of all her babies. Every expectant mother in need will be gladly welcomed at the

Maternity Centre:—
Infant Welfare Centre:—
Mothers Welcome or other place:—

Then follows, Signature of Mayoress or 'City Mother.' Address of Centre. Hours of Consultation.

In a few days we could have a reg-

(Continued on page 244, col. 3.)

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Good meeting held in Victoria Park on Sunday, and very successful meetings held by Miss Pankhurst when going round in the motor, kindly lent by Mrs. Sadd-Brown.

Next Sunday we are to have the pleasure of hearing Miss Mary Richardson in the Women's Hall, also Mr. Petroff, who will give an interesting lecture on Russia. Miss Pankhurst will take the chair. Members please do your best to make this a very good meeting. The meeting starts at 8, and do try to be punctual.

The Caxton Hall Exhibition will want *Dreadnought* sellers and collectors. Will any willing to help give in their names, also any who can distribute bills in the West End to work it up?

Members' penny subscriptions for April: monthly, 14s. 5d.; weekly, 18s. 3d.; total, £1 12s. 8d. *Dreadnoughts* sold—

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
Mrs. McCheyne & Mrs. Mantle,
53 St. Leonard Street.

A very pleasant meeting was held last Tuesday, when Mrs. Walshe explained how the vote would benefit hospital nurses.

It will greatly facilitate matters if members would please pay their monthly subscriptions the first week in the month, as some members object to anyone calling upon them.

POPLAR.

The Women's Hall, 20 Railway St.
Organiser: Mrs. Drake.

We had a good meeting at Sturry St. on Monday evening, when Mrs. Bouvier was the speaker.

Everybody enjoyed hearing Miss Richardson on Tuesday evening. Wednesday at Chrisp St. Miss Lynch made a very good speech. Mrs. Tyson was our speaker on Friday afternoon, and Mr. Everett in the evening at Piggott St. We have not yet received all the returns from Self-Denial Week. Our thanks to those who are doing their best to help. Miss H. Watts and Miss D. Morley have promised to give out bills for the Caxton Hall Exhibition. Will anybody else offer? We also want members to assist in making artificial flowers on Thursday evenings for our Women's May Day, May 30th. Miss H. Watts will be in charge, so please come along if only for half an hour. We have bills for all our meetings, and members are asked to call for some to give to their friends.

Monday night—Speakers' Class, 8 o'clock.

Tuesday evening—8 o'clock meeting, men and women welcome.

Wednesday evening—Choir meeting, 8 o'clock.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending May 1st—190. Mrs. Bird collected £1 7s. 2½d., Mrs. Drake 11s. 10½d., Mrs. Tyson 5s. Subscription—2s. 6d. Mr. Peek.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—
55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Monday meeting speakers were Miss Manicom and Mr. Everett. It was nice to see the members supporting the speakers. Miss Mary Richardson spoke on Thursday, and was listened to with great enthusiasm. Two new members were made. Thanks to Mrs. Mears for splendid way she has canvassed, and also for meeting the speaker at Beckton Rd. May subscriptions are now due. Please pay up promptly. Don't forget Town Hall, Stratford, Meeting to-night (Friday), at 8 o'clock; stewards please be there at 7.30. All Self-Denial cards and boxes wanted on Monday please.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 173 Dalston Lane
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Mrs. Cyon spoke to a crowded meeting last week and 5 o'clock came all too quickly, when we had to send the people home, as we ought to have closed at 4 o'clock. We shall have some more chairs this week, but if friends are turning out any chairs during spring cleaning, we shall be very glad of them indeed.

We had a good crowd at our open-air meeting outside the office on Thursday evening. One of our new friends proposed that we should formulate a demand to bring down the price of tea, as beer is comparatively cheaper, and tea is the beverage of the working woman. This was carried unanimously. Thanks are due to Mrs. Butcher for her help in canvassing. Will someone else take a turn?

Papers sold 21; distributed 100.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Balchin,
39 Radnor Street, Peckham.

Our meeting at the Kemspead Road Hall, on April 28th, was very well attended, and the fine speech delivered by Mr. Bernard Trappschuh much appreciated. A sum of 5s. 6d. was collected for Self-Denial Fund. Our speaker on May 12th will be Mr. E. J. Woollams-Seeney. Members can obtain tickets for the Women's Exhibition at Caxton Hall from the Secretary if they wish to do so. *Dreadnoughts* sold this week—15. Wanted, more subscribers.

E.L.F.S. Bow Branch and R.S.P.U.
Joint "MILK FUND" SOCIAL,
SATURDAY, MAY 8th, at 8 p.m.
WOMEN'S HALL, 400 OLD FORD RD.,
Tickets 3d each

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: Mr. H. G. Everett.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

Good meeting Finsbury Park on Sunday morning. Meeting next Sunday at 3 p.m.

All members are asked to support the Women's Exhibition next week. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s. and 6d., may be obtained from the Secretary by writing to the above address.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road.

All members should be present at Joint Social, Saturday, 8th May—profits to the E.L.F.S. Milk Fund. Miss Smyth will be in the chair. If you cannot come, you can help by buying a ticket (price 3d.) from the Hon. Sec. R.S.P.U., or from E.L.F.S., 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

GOVERNMENT MISREPRESENTATIONS.

In the food prices debate on February 17th, Mr. Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, said that the increased cost of living should be met by higher wages and that the Government was acting in that direction. The Post Office employees (many of whom have long had really serious grievances in regard to wages) have taken the Government at its word, but the Post Master General for some time persistantly refused their demands for a war bonus. The employees showed great determination, and there were rumours of an impending strike.

On April 28th, Mr, Hobhouse announced in the House of Commons that the Government had agreed to refer the matter in dispute to arbitration, but that the Government would sustain before the arbiters its view that it could not afford to pay more to postal servants, because if it did so similar demands would be made from other departments, also that the increased cost of living did not in itself justify a demand for an increase in wages, and that postal employees had not been subject to special strain and pressure.

He asserted that where overtime had occurred in telegraphic and sorting departments, employees had made from £7 to £11 in a week for overtime, although they had worked but little over 60 hours.

Mr. Wardle said that he had listened to this latter statement with astonishment. A normal week consisted of 48 hours and Mr. Hobhouse had himself explained that time and a quarter was paid for the first six hours overtime, time and a half for the second six hours and double rates for over twelve hours. Therefore double time pay could not be reached until more than 60 hours had been worked. Mr. Wardle cited the case of a woman postal servant in London who is paid 18s. a week, out of which she has to pay her fares and 3s. 6d. for meals at work. He stated that the wages of 59,000 postal employees do not exceed £1 a week.

Mr. Pollock said that the Holt Report published in August 1913 had recommended increased pay to first-class surveyors' clerks. The Government had twice promised, in January and April 1914, to accede to the recommendation and to make its adoption date from February 2nd 1914, arrears to that date being paid should any delay occur. The necessary money to pay the increase was voted by the House of Commons in the early part of 1914. Yet in February 1915 it was stated that the Government had not made up its mind whether it would agree to pay the increased salaries or not.

Many Members thanked the Post Master General for having agreed to submit the various questions to arbitration and to abide by the decisions of the arbiters, it being expected that the employees should do the same.

We must point out that the growth of Government employment and of the arbitration system, makes it more and more urgent that the woman worker should be armed with political power.

A woman dressed as a man worked 9½ hours a day for three days, at the Barrow Naval Construction Works, before her sex was discovered. Then, of course, she was discharged, though there was no complaint as to her work. She needed as much pay as a man to help her family. She took the only way of getting it.

(*Continued from page 243, col. 4.*)

ister of such mothers needing help and in the meantime another register should be compiled by inviting every woman anxious to help this Crusade (and their names and capabilities must be legion) to send in her name to the Mayoress or 'City Mother.' The visiting staff of the Public Health Authorities would thus be rapidly increased, assistants to lying-in hospitals, health visitors, sick room helps, invalid cooks, nurses for washing and clothing the babies, would be at hand for any sudden call. Already several have sent in names to me imploring me to set to work!

Summer is approaching with its deadly visitant, depending on flies and garbage,—*Epidemic Diarrhœa* Are we to acquiese in the annual sacrifice with only three hospitals in the land for this special and ever-recurring trouble, *i. e.* (1) Vincent Square, London. (2) Bradford Hospital for Children. (3) Manchester Babies' Hospital?

Shall there be no Hospitals in every town for the little wounded helpless victims in this war of extermination?

Shall we have empty cradles to greet the returning fathers who left their babies and wives to the care of a grateful country, while they set out abroad to fight for its defence?

Shall the enthusiasm for baby-saving languish while the recruiting boom increases? Shall it *always* be true that "England takes care of her things and throws away her people?"

Much will depend on the 'City Mothers' of England, calling together without delay their army for the Baby-saving Crusade. Not a moment is to be lost—the enemy is and always has been in our midst, but we have been blind and have not recognised him. Once more the Registrar General bids us awake.

IN PARLIAMENT.

On April 28th, Mr. Ronald McNeill asked the Prime Minister whether he would consider the possibility of passing a temporary measure to enable soldiers on active service to be married by proxy.

Mr. Asquith replied: "I do not think the hon. Member's suggestions will find general acceptance."

On April 28th, in the House of Commons, Lord Charles Beresford said that for every fuse manufactured in this country 1s. is paid by the Government under a German patent, for the benefit of Krupp, of Essen. He asked whether the British armament firms pay this money to the Public Trustee to be transmitted to Krupp, and how much money was thus made by Krupp out of the battle of Neuve Chapelle.

The War Office replied that inquiries would be made.

Sir Arthur Markham asked that inquiries should be made into German royalties on our submarines. Thus for a moment the business side of war was partially revealed.

In the House of Commons, on April 28th, Mr. W. C. Anderson, Mr. Phillip Snowden, and Mr. Duncan Millar, pressed Mr. Runciman to say what the Government will do to keep down the price of coal.

Mr. Runciman said that he was in communication with the London County Council in regard to the Select Committee's recommendation that a stock of coal should be accumulated in London.

Mr. Hogge asked why the accumulation of coal should be confined to London. Mr. Runciman answered: "The Committee's recommendation was confined to London." Mr. Hogge pertinently asked: "Does it matter what the Committee recommends?"

Sir Arthur Markham asked whether the Government would fix maximum prices, but he got no answer.

A husband and wife, who are old age pensioners, have been for some years in the workhouse; but having reached the age of 70, and being entitled to the pension, they have taken their discharge in order to have a few years' freedom before they die. The old lady, Mrs. Edwards, 160 Severn Rd., Poplar, finds that it is impossible for them to make ends meet on the pensions, and is anxious to get work to do. Can anyone give her some work?

SWEATED PROFITS.

Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., made a profit of £1,241,845 in 1914, and, after paying a dividend of 12½ per cent., placed to reserve £1,764,000, *i.e.* £694,000 more than the year before. The women employed at Vickers' Erith Works, as belt machinists, asked for an increase of ½d. an hour for those whose hourly rate is more than 2½d., and 1d. an hour for those whose rate is 2½d. or under. This was refused.

One shilling per day without allowance was the munificent remuneration given to a woman who worked for days in succession driving a pair of horses on a farm at Shifnal, Salop. This extraordinary example of underpaid women workers has been brought to light by the Agricultural Workers' Union.

The National Union of Clerks has written to the committee commenting on the fact that over 40 women volunteers for War Service have been put on clerical work while a number of the union's women members are unemployed and available.

This is a breach of Mr. McKenna's undertaking that the women on the War Register should not be employed while suitable women could be obtained from the Labour Exchanges, where the members of the N.U.C. are doubtless registered.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

General Fund.—Miss G. L. Smyth 1.0.0, Sunday collections from Motor-car 14.5, Miss N. Smith 5.0, Dr. Jessie Murray 5.0, Collection Women's Hall 3.2½, South West Ham collection 3.1, Victoria Park meeting collection 2.7, Poplar collections 1.9½, Hackney collection 1.6, Miss Helsby 1.6, Mrs Milward 1.0, Mrs & Miss Green 1.0 (monthly), Mrs Walker 1.0 (fortnightly).

Self-Denial Fund.—Mrs E. Lansbury 1.0.0, Anon 10.6, Miss N. E. MacMunn 10.0, Miss Gillies 10.0, Miss D. Rock 10.0, Mrs Alice Green 10.0, Mrs Hyde 10.0, Mrs Green 9.0, Miss E. Gore Brown 6.0, Miss M. Balchin 5.6, J. E. Phillips, Esq 5.0, Miss Beamish 5.0, Mrs Tyson 5.0, North London M.P.U. per H. G. Everett, Esq 3.6, Mrs Lehman 2.6, J. Keir Hardie, Esq 2.6, Vincent Grimmitt, Esq 2.6, A. J. Clifford Ewen, Esq 3.6, Miss Burgess 2.3½, Miss Lynch 2.0, Miss A. Daubin 2.0, Miss R. Cohen 1.6, Miss O'Brien 1.6, Miss D. Gregory 1.0, Mrs Winter 1.0, Miss Morley 1.0, Mr. Joseph Crabb 0.10.

For Milk and General Distress.—Girls of Southland High School, New Zealand 6.0.0, Miss Joachim (3.0.0 weekly) 6.0.0, R. B. Chadwick, Esq 5.5.0, Mrs Sadd Brown's 'At Home' 4.0.8, Girls of Miss Overell's School, Wahroonga, Tasmania 3.0.0, per Mrs Caird 2.2.0, Mrs. Richmond 1.1.6, Mrs. Singer (monthly) 1.0.0, J Leakey, Esq 1.0.0 Miss M. E. Knott 1.0.0, P. F. Smith, Esq 1.0.0, per Mrs Fox Strangways 1.0.0, Mrs Arncliffe Sennett 1.0.0, Miss Maitland 1.0.0, Mrs and Misses Hancock 13.0, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Miss T. Pomphrey 10.0, Mr & Mrs Neal 10.0, Anon—Stroud Green (weekly) 10.0, Mrs Richmond (5.0 weekly) 10.0, Mrs Laskey 10.0, Mrs George Jones 10.0, Miss W. Woodcock & Miss D. H. Jones 10.0, Mr Beckett's grandson 9.0, Miss L. C. Lowe 7.1, Misses Tollemache 6.0, Miss Fox 5.9, Mrs Usherwood 5.6, Mrs Vatcher (monthly) 5.0, T. Norris, Esq (monthly) 5.0, Mrs Norris 5.0, J. L. Munden, Esq 5.0, Mrs Goldenburg 5.0, Miss Wilson 5.0, A working woman 4.0, Miss M. Kird 4.0, per Mrs Lehmann (farthings) 3.9½, Miss E. Crabb (monthly) 3.6, per Miss Oldham 3.3, Mrs Granger's Women's Club 2.6, Miss E. Graves 2.6, Vincent Grimmitt, Esq 2.6, A woman worker (monthly) 2.6, Mr Peek 2.6, Miss Balchin 2.6, Mrs Teipel 2.4½, Miss E. Johnson 2.0, Miss I. Jones (weekly) 2.0, Mrs Foster 2.0, Miss Elaine Limousine 2.0, Miss Standley 1.0, Mrs. Powles (weekly) 1.0, Master John Solomon 1.0, Miss & Mr. Bailey 0.10, Miss H. J. Pole 0.8, Miss Chivers 0.4, Miss Hunt 0.1.

Collected. Mrs Bird 19.0, Mrs Drake 11.10½, Mrs Crabb 10.10½, Mrs Savoy 9.9½, Miss Marks 8.6¼, Mrs Bird 8.2¼, Miss Watts 6.5¾ Miss Manicom 5.9½ Mrs Ryan 4.8½, Ruby Crabb 3.7, Mrs Neuss 3.2, Miss Mary Carr 2.3, Little Willie 1.9¾, Anon 1.7¼, Miss Gallop 1.3, Miss Betty Howell 1.1¼, Miss Green 1.0, Mrs Cressall 0.6, Miss Beamish 0.5¾, Bow Members collected for 'At Home' 7.6.

Clothes, etc.—Mrs Powles, Mrs Powell, Mrs R. Johnson, Miss Kate Evans, Miss E. Canning, Miss Clara Sidney Woolf.

Bow members, for 'At Home'—Sugar, coffee, cakes and sandwiches.

WANTED for the BABIES' HOUSE.

Small kitchen table. Ironing table. Large double milk saucepan, 4 to 6 qrts. (aluminium preferred). Large iron saucepan, for soup. Gifts of sugar; tea. Gifts of cocoa, for the nursing mothers. Shoes and socks, brown or black, size 2 to 4 years. Tea-spoons, knives and forks. Cots, pillows, and pillow cases. Older children's stretcher beds. Babies' glass bottles (boat shaped). Brushes and combs for children's hair. Food thermometer. Cullender. Teapot. Milk jugs. Brooms. Black-lead brushes. Small kettle. Teapot. Small plates. Flat irons.

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